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## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Field Wren in the Albany Area.**—Serventy and Whittell (*Birds of Western Australia*, 4th edn., 1967) give the western limits of the southern range of the Field Wren (*Calamanthus fuliginosus*) as Mt. Manypeaks and Two Peoples Bay. However I have seen one individual in coastal scrub west of Albany at Jimmy Newells Harbour, 30-35 km W.S.W. of Two Peoples Bay. The date was 14 May, 1973.

—M. K. TARBURTON, Carmel College.

**Redshank on North-west Coast.**—On September 2, 1974 I was observing wading birds at the muddy edge of a shallow salt lake about 1 kilometre north-east of Coral Bay when my attention was attracted by one odd sandpiper feeding with a large flock of Red-capped Dotterel (*Charadrius ruficapillus*). The following description was obtained using 10 x 50 binoculars at a range of about 25 metres with a good late afternoon light.

Upper parts, nape and crown sandy brown; light "eyebrow"; dark line through eye; lower parts creamy white; bill straight, medium length, black; legs medium length, very bright crimson; overall size about equal to Grey Plover (28 cm). No call noted. Flight low and direct; rump and upper tail white, but with a narrow dark terminal band; wings with conspicuous white stripe on the upper surface.

A positive identification may not be possible from these field notes, but it seems very likely that the bird was a vagrant Redshank (*Tringa totanus*). This is not usually regarded as an Australian species, but it does regularly migrate in August and September to the Malay peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo, Java and presumably the lesser Indonesian islands, and Christmas Island, and is regarded as common on mudflats in these countries in the (southern) summer months. An occurrence at Coral Bay would imply that the normal migratory flight had been extended by about 1,500 kilometres.

—L. E. SEDGWICK, Geraldton.

**Moulting Mountain Ducks on Lake Preston.**—The importance of the Yalgorup National Park, south of Mandurah, including as it does such large expanses of water as Lakes Clifton and Preston is widely recognised as a haven for waterfowl, particularly during the summer and in years of severe drought (Jenkins, *W. Aust. Nat.*, 12, 1971: 28).

Probably because of its high salinity Lake Preston usually carries fewer birds than Lake Clifton, but the following report by the National Park Ranger, Mr. R. Chandler dated November 25, 1974 shows the particular importance of Lake Preston to the Mountain Duck (*Tadorna tadornoides*) and a strong reason for restricting the use of boats and particularly power boats in the area.